GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4334
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Afforestation in Degraded Forest
Tarai Smt. Rita

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed compensatory afforestation to be taken up in twice the area of degraded forests for forest diversion proposal of Central Government PSUs, but has not allowed similar facility for the forest diversion proposals for the projects of State PSUs;
(b) if so, the reasons for not allowing such dispensation for the projects of State Government Undertakings;
(c) whether various States including Odisha have requested for similar dispensation for State PSUs; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken on these requests, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a)Yes, Sir.

(b)Compensatory afforestation is one of the most important conditions stipulated by the Central Government while approving proposals for de-reservation or diversion of forest land for non-forest uses. It not only compensate loss in the forest cover and forest land but also acts as a major disincentive for project projects to seek diversion of forest land for non-site specific activities, and thus ensure that diversion of forest land is sought only for unavoidable site specific activities. The Land being a State subject, Central Government Departments and Central Government Undertakings generally do not own land which may be made available for compensatory afforestation. To expedite grant of approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for Central Government/Central Government Undertaking projects, which normally are implemented for larger public good, as a special provision for such projects, guidelines issued by the Ministry provides that compensatory afforestation may be raised on degraded forest land twice in extent of forest area being diverted,

(c)Yes, Sir.

(d)The request of Odisha Government had been denied as per the reason at annexe 'A'.

*****